

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 003705
ORIGIN OES-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ERDA-07 NSF-02 INT-05 EB-07
FEAE-00 /038 R

DRAFTED BY OES/APT/BMP:ACHAPMAN:MJ
APPROVED BY OES/APT/BMP:JCFRY
ERDA:AKOTB
NSF:GEDWARDS
OES/NET/IM:MPROCHNIK
NEA/INS:ATHIBAUT
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
NSF, ERDA, INT

-----071939Z 107078 /47
O 071927Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 003705

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, IN

SUBJECT: COAL GASIFICATION TEAM VISIT

REF: A) STATE 275882, B) NEW DELHI 18626

1. IN VIEW OF CONTINUING STRONG INTEREST OF GOI IN EARLY
VISIT OF INDIAN COAL GASIFICATION TEAM TO U.S. (REFTEL B)
ERDA WILL ARRANGE VISITS TO SEVERAL PILOT PROJECTS AND
RESEARCH CENTERS AND MEET WITH INDIAN TEAM TO EXPLORE
FEASIBILITY OF COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS IN COAL GASIFICATION.
GOI SHOULD BE AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT ERDA NOT IN A POSITION
TO ENCOURAGE JOINT R AND D PROJECTS AT THIS TIME.

2. BEFORE MEETINGS AND DEFINITIVE ITINERARY CAN BE SET UP,
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ERDA NEEDS TO KNOW: (A) WHO WILL PAY INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL
AND PER DIEM COSTS OF VISIT, (B) NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN INDIAN
TEAM AND THEIR NAMES, TITLES AND AFFILIATIONS, (C) LENGTH
OF TIME ENVISAGED FOR THEIR STAY IN U.S., (D) WHETHER TEAM
WILL BE COMPOSED OF MANAGEMENT PEOPLE, TECHNICIANS OR BOTH,
AND (E) SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF COAL GASIFICATION THEY ARE MOST
INTERESTED IN EXPLORING WITH ERDA.

3. JANUARY VISIT NOT NOW POSSIBLE, SINCE 30-DAY LEAD
NEEDED TO MAKE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS. ERDA BRIEFING OF

INDIAN TEAM WILL TAKE COUPLE OF HOURS, AND ERDA ASSUMES
PRESENTATION OF INDIAN TEAM EQUALLY TO-THE-POINT. THERE-
FORE, ONE DAY PROBABLY SUFFICIENT FOR DISCUSSIONS IN
WASHINGTON. LARGEST CENTER FOR ERDA R AND D IN COAL
GASIFICATION IS PITTSBURGH AREA WHERE VISIT OF TWO DAYS
CERTAINLY WORTHWHILE. CHICAGO ALSO RECOMMENDED BUT NOT
NORTH DAKOTA AT THIS TIME OF YEAR. ERDA FEELS RELATIVELY
SHORT VISIT OPTIMAL SINCE AT TECHNICAL LEVEL MORE TO BE
GAINED FROM INTENSIVE STUDY OF LITERATURE THAN SUPERFICIAL
VISITS TO SITES. KNOWLEDGE OF SPECIFIC INTERESTS AND
EXPERTISE OF INDIAN TEAM MEMBERS WOULD GREATLY ASSIST IN
PLANNING BOTH DISCUSSIONS AND SITE VISITS.

4. ERDA SUGGESTS FOLLOWING ITINERARY FOR INITIAL PLAN-
NING PURPOSES: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7 - DISCUSSIONS AT ERDA
HEADQUARTERS, WASHINGTON, D.C.; TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8 -
MORNING FLIGHT TO PITTSBURGH, AFTERNOON VISIT TO PITTS-
BURGH ENERGY RESEARCH CENTER (PERC); WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY
9 - VISITS TO SYNTHANE PILOT PLANT, BITUMINOUS COAL
RESEARCH CENTER (BCR), AND BIGAS PILOT PLANT, ALL IN OR
NEAR PITTSBURGH, EVENING FLIGHT TO MORGANTOWN, WEST
VIRGINIA; THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10 - VISIT MORGANTOWN ENERGY
RESEARCH CENTER (MERC), LATE AFTERNOON FLIGHT TO PITTS-
BURGH TO CONNECT WITH FLIGHT TO CHICAGO, ILLINOIS; FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 11 - MORNING VISIT TO INSTITUTE OF GAS TECH-
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NOLOGY (IGT) AND AFTERNOON VISIT TO HIGAS PILOT PLANT.
ITINERARY ASSUMES AT LEAST FEBRUARY 6 ARRIVAL IN WASH-
INGTON, D.C. AND DEPARTURE FROM CHICAGO ON OR AFTER
FEBRUARY 12 FOR RETURN TO INDIA. ERDA OFFICIALS WILL MEET
AND ASSIST AT EACH STAGE OF ITINERARY EXCEPT FOR NECESSARY
PLANE CONNECTIONS IN NEW YORK. HOTEL RESERVATIONS AND
VISIT ARRANGEMENTS TO BE MADE WHEN INFORMATION ON TEAM
MEMBERS PROVIDED. FYI: NSF NEEDS NAMES TO ISSUE DOMESTIC
TRAVEL AUTHORIZATIONS, WHICH NORMALLY TAKE FOUR WEEKS, AND
ERDA OF NECESSITY PROGRAMS PLANT VISITS 30 DAYS IN
ADVANCE. END FYI.

5. NSF CAN PROBABLY COVER COST OF INTERNAL U.S. TRAVEL
USING SFC IF EMBASSY PERCEIVES NO OBJECTION AND RECEIVES
GOI CONCURRENCE. NSF CANNOT, HOWEVER, COVER COST OF
INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL OR PER DIEM OF TEAM MEMBERS. SUGGEST
DESHPANDE BE INFORMED OF THIS AND QUERIED WHETHER GOI CAN
SUPPORT COST OF INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND PER DIEM. IF
VISIT TO BE LAID ON FOR FEBRUARY, U.S. AGENCIES NEED DE-

TAILED ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN PARA 2 ASAP.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COAL, GASES, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE003705
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ACHAPMAN:MJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770007-0630
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770170/aaaacjnd.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 088a30dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 275882, 77 NEW DELHI 18626
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3642538
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COAL GASIFICATION TEAM VISIT
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, IN
To: NEW DELHI
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/088a30dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009